

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1641

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJ: CIVAIR: AIR FRANCE FLEET RENEWAL

REF: PARIS 19136

1. BRUNEAU, TECHNICAL ADVISER FOR CIVAIR MATTERS IN CABINET OF STATE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION CAVAILLE, TELLS US THAT INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING THAT WAS TO HAVE BEEN HELD ON JULY 23 ON SUBJECT OF AIR FRANCE FLEET RENEWAL AND NEW AIRCRAFT DEVELOPMENT WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE OF LAST-MINUTE CONFLICT IN SCHEDULE OF PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC WHO IS TO CHAIR THE MEETING. BRUNEAU SAID THAT COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN NEAR FUTURE BUT NO DATE HAS YET BEEN FIXED. HE WAS UNWILLING VENTURE ANY PREDICTION OF WHAT OUTCOME OF THE MEETING MIGHT BE.

2. BRUNEAU DENIED THAT DELEGATION FROM FRENCH AERO- SPACE INDUSTRY WILL BE VISITING BOEING PLANT NEXT WEEK, AS WE HAD REPORTED PARA 5 REFTEL (BASED ON STORY

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IN LE MONDE). HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT ABRAHAM, DIRECTOR

OF AIR TRANSPORT AT SGAC AND CHARGE DE MISSION IN
CAVAILLE'S CABINET, HAD VISITED BOEING PLANT FOR TALKS
LAST WEEK.

3. COMMENT: ABRAHAM VISIT WAS DOUBTLESS IN RESPONSE
BOEING INVITATION REPORTED PARA 3 PARIS 12546, WHICH
WE KNOW WAS RENEWED DURING BOEING CHAIRMAN WILSON'S
TALKS WITH GOF OFFICIALS DURING PARIS AIR SHOW.
ABRAHAM, BECAUSE OF HIS DUAL ROLE IN SGAC AND IN
CAVAILLE'S CABINET, IS KEY FIGURE AT WORKING LEVEL IN
GOF FOR BOTH FLEET RENEWAL AND NEW CIVIL AIRCRAFT
DEVELOPMENT. HE IS CLOSER TO CAVAILLE AND CARRIES
MORE WEIGHT WITH HIM ON THESE MATTERS THAN DOES
BRUNEAU, FOR EXAMPLE. HENCE, ABRAHAM DISCUSSIONS
WITH BOEING WOULD HAVE MORE POTENTIAL THAN WOULD
DISCUSSIONS WITH ANY FRENCH INDUSTRY DELEGATION ANYWAY
IN TERMS OF INFLUENCING AND COMMITTING GOF POSITION.
SHOULD DELEGATION FROM FRENCH AEROSPACE INDUSTRY GO
TO SEATTLE FOR TALKS WITH BOEING AT SOME FUTURE DATE,
THIS WOULD OF COURSE DEFINITELY SIGNAL HEIGHTENED GOF
INTEREST IN EXPLORING TECHNICAL AREAS OF POSSIBLE
COOPERATION FOLLOWING BOEING TALKS WITH GOF OFFICIALS
HERE AND ABRAHAM'S RECENT FURTHER TALKS WITH BOEING.
WE ALSO NOTE THAT CAVAILLE PLANS TO SPEND A DAY WITH
BOEING DURING HIS US VISIT IN SEPTEMBER (SEPTEL), AS
WELL AS VISITING MCDONNELL DOUGLAS AND LOCKHEED.
ABRAHAM WILL BE IN THE PARTY.

GAMMON

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